Yalta

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THE GEM OF SOUTH UKRAINE

Among the numerous health-resorts of the Ukraine Yalta holds a unique position. Today it is rightfully called Greater Yalta. Situated in the extreme South of the Republic it stretches for some 70 km along the South Coast of the Crimea from Mount Ayu-Dag in the east to Cape Aya in the west. The marvellous scenic setting and caressing sea account for its country-wide popularity. Yalta is always attractive, be it summer or winter, spring or autumn, and not without reason it got a name of gem, for a gem it is indeed. The South Coast of the Crimea is a fairy-tale spot, not resembling any other on earth. It has a striking variety of landscape, a charm and colour all its own. Here, the harsh rigidity of the mountains towering unusually close to the fancifully-shaped coastline, the breadth of the sea, the height of the luminous sky are all united in a stupendous picture of unrivalled beauty made perfect by the lush vegetation blanketing the country-side and maritime resorts.

However it is not only scenic beauty that Yalta is famous for. Another item which in no way should be overlooked is its wonderful climate. It is rather mild on account of the tempering effects of the sea and possesses extraordinary curative properties. The sun reigns here unimpaired the most part of the year. The sea drenched by its blazing rays, dry limpid air produce an amazingly beneficial influence on the human organism.

The making of the resort began some one hundred years ago as these particular features of the climate of the South Coast were discovered. In the pre-revolutionary period it was available mostly for the nobility and bourgeoisie. Only under the Soviet rule, in accordance with the historical Decree signed by Lenin, Yalta and the other resorts of the Crimea were given over to the working people. Today Greater Yalta is one of the biggest health-resorts of the country and a popular tourist centre as well. The working people from the remotest parts of the Soviet Union come here to restore their health and to relax. Tourists both Soviet and foreign are invariably attracted by the natural beauties of the South Coast. Of no less interest is its history and present-day development. Within Greater Yalta there are quite a few things to be seen and learned. Wherever you may come from you are sure to have here a good invigorating rest and get impressions to last in your memory for a long time.

The variegated nature of the South Coast of the Crimea is, no doubt, its principal attraction. A special appeal belongs to the inimitably eloquent relief. It is hardly possible to imagine that anywhere else there is a similar mountain range overhanging the sea-coast like an interrupted wall. Such is the Main Range of the Crimean Mountains possessing peculiar architectonics. It is not surmounted by an ordinary ridge. Its top has a unique form of an upland constituting a system of treeless undulating platforms — plateaux. Platforms of this kind overgrown by grass and abounding in craters of Karstic origin have long since been called "yailas". The average height of the mountain range is about 1200—1500 metres above sea-level, but owing to its proximity to the sea and peculiarities of the relief it looks high and imposing. Its northern side is rather common — gentle slopes profusely covered by beech forests. As a contrast to it the southern façade of the range has a stern semblance. Hard massive rocks, deeply-furrowed crags alternating with steep pine-clad slopes and fantastic gorges unfold before one's eyes in a kind of an artistically made frieze. Not unlike an immense fortress to the west of Yalta looms the rigid and majestic spires of Ai-Petri Peak, one of the most effective summits of the mountain range reaching the height of 1223 metres above sea-level. From the north the town is sheltered by its natural extension — Ai-Petri Yaila. The cone-shaped Mount Mogabi and Nikita Yaila, two spurs diverging from it, close in the mountain amphitheatre of Yalta from the south-west and north-east respectively. The highest part of the mountain range lies beyond Nikita Yaila. It continues further to the north-east and is known under the name of Babugan Yaila. Roman-Kosh, its summit, is actually the highest point of the Crimean Mountains (1545 metres above sea-level). The mountain range extending to the west of Ai-Petri Peak gradually diminishes in height, however it comes closer and closer to the sea-coast in a sheer wall of rocks until it drops down to the sea forming Cape Aya (590 metres above sea-level).

Narrow river valleys each having a face of its own, mountain slopes now steep, now gentle make up for the most part the territory of the South Coast which is but a strip of land hemmed in by the Main Mountain Range close to the sea. Overhanging cliffs and rocky promontories alternating with cosy well-sheltered beaches and small inlets diversify the coastline a great deal. Cape Ai-Todor in which the southern slope of Mount Mogabi is terminated, and Cape Martian, the extreme tip of Nikita Yaila, form a wide arc of the bay. Beyond Cape Martian a huge laccolith, a dome-shaped rock of volcanic origin with a singular silhouette of a bear drinking water, juts out far into the sea. This is the famous Ayu-Dag (Bear-Mountain), an integral and at the same time familiar detail of the landscape of the South Coast.

The climate of the South Coast of the Crimea deserves a special notice. A few words concerning it were said above but they certainly do not suffice to give a general idea of its uncommon character. In fact, the local climate has such specific traits that make it notably unique. To say that it is mild and warm is to say very

little about it. Just the same as at the resorts of the Caucasian Riviera, on the South Coast, there are no sharp fluctuations of the air temperature but here there is more sunshine, and the atmosphere is much clearer, because of its dryness. A miraculous blend of the refreshing air streams coming from the sea on the one hand and from the mountain forests on the other provides the specific effect facilitating the respiration.

The climatic conditions of the South Coast are accounted for by the two factors — its relief and the sea. In winter, when cold north and north-east winds predominate in the Crimean Peninsula, the Main Mountain Range frustrates the penetration of cold air into the zone of the South Coast. On the other hand the sea delivers the warmth accumulated within summer-time to the air. It is an interesting fact that the mean annual temperature of sea-water off Yalta is +14,5° C, whereas that of the air +13,1° C. The average temperature of February which is the coldest month of the year is +3° C. Summer on the South Coast is usually dry and not oppressively hot. The average temperature of July when the heat is at its height does not exceed +26+28° C. The heat is moderated thanks to the tempering capacity of the sea which breathes coolness during summer functioning thus as a regulator of the air temperature all the year round. The annual amount of precipitation is about 550—700 millimetres with prevalence in winter. Yalta boasts a bountiful share of sunshine which totals 2000—2500 hours a year, being the same as that of the best Mediterranean resorts. Owing to the extreme clarity of the atmosphere the sunshine on the South Coast is very strong with a good percentage of ultra-violet rays. The sea breezes are charged with iodine and other mineral salts that the Black Sea is rich in. The pine forests and parks are also responsible in a way for the beneficial character of the South Coast climate. All these factors combined make it what it is — a modified sea climate of the best type with exclusive curative properties.

The best season on the South Coast, no doubt, is early autumn. The weather at this time of the year is even, dry, agreeably hot. The sea

is still rather warm, the sun intensely bright, the shadows deep, the air fresh and crisp. One may call it a truly halcyon weather.

The vegetation of the South Coast is rich and varied. Dense pine forests cover the steep slopes of the mountain range from a height of 300 metres above sea-level to the very edge of the yailas. The Crimean pine is a beautiful tree of a thick and erect trunk reaching a height of 30 metres. Its bark of a peculiar light grey hue has large-sized scales forming a singular pattern. Another distinctive feature of the Crimean pine is that its needles are rather long and have uncommonly bright green colour. From a high point the pine forest looks like a velvety dark green carpet with here and there lighter spots formed by groves of leaf-bearing trees of which the most widespread is beech. Besides beech in the zone of the mountain forests one may find oak, hornbeam, ash-tree, less frequently black alder and lime-tree. Of conifers the relict species of yew are noteworthy. Bountiful underbrush makes some places quite impenetrable. Cornel, hazel, red hip, blackberry, sloe grow here side by side in a picturesque tangle.

In the sea-side zone there are large natural groves of both conifers and deciduous species. Oak, hornbeam, ash-tree, Crimean pine, juniper predominate. Strawberry-tree, a curious evergreen plant remarkable for its property to change bark every year, can be seen growing on steep slopes and rocks facing the sea. Towards midsummer its twisted stems and branches acquire a tan of deep reddish brown and the bark begins to peel off. Strawberry-trees are especially abundant around Cape Martian where there is also a large grove of juniper and scrub-oak.

The numerous parks of the South Coast boast a unique diversity of wild and cultivated flora. Stately cedars of various kinds, immense plane-trees, sumptuous magnolias are their brilliant pride. Cryptomeria and araukaria, box-wood and yew-tree, wistaria and olive-tree, cork-oak and hemp-palm, natives of all the continents can be seen here.

Cypress is a keynote of the landscape of the South Coast, a kind of symbol of this ancient

land. It is known that cypresses appeared here for the first time towards the end of the 18th century but they so naturally and organically fitted into the local landscape that it seems now they have been here eternally, from time immemorial. At present it is hard to imagine the South Coast without cypresses, perhaps the same as it is impossible to picture the wide plains of mid Russia without birches. In the parks, along the roads and streets, on the margin of vineyards they stand solitary or in rows and picturesque clumps proudly upright and dark.

The green mantle of the South Coast is its inseparable part largely responsible for its natural beauty. It looks a real paradise in springtime when the blossom is out. No less attractive it is in autumn with all the hues of the purple, brown and yellow stressed by the deep green of the conifers.

The parks and gardens of the South Coast of the Crimea are its great wealth, but not the only one. There are also orchards bearing excellent fruits. The South Coast has always been renowned for its peaches, sweet cherries, plums and pears, and, of course, the real fame belongs to its high-reputed vineyards. The grapes grown here, thanks to the specific weather conditions, character of soil, relief, are distinguished for a high percentage of sugar, subtle aroma and unusually harmonic flavour. Such are the famous muscats of the South Coast. The wines produced from the grapes of this particular kind successfully rival the best wines of France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Tobacco grown on the South Coast has equally high quality.

A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY

The history of the South Coast of the Crimea can be traced as far back as the neolithic age. The archaeological finds prove the presence of man here at that time. The first information of the indigenous inhabitants of this region dates from the period of the Greek colonization of the northern coast of the Black Sea. When in the 5th century B. C. the ancient Greeks founded near present-day Sevastopol their colony of Chersonesus they came into contact with the native tribes inhabiting the mountains and the shore. In the literature of the Antiquity these tribes got the name of Tauri.

Free and bellicose, they permanently caused trouble to Chersonesus. Having fallen under the sway of the Scythians, the mighty nomadic tribes who had formed in the Crimea their state, the Tauri supported them in their struggle against Chersonesus and Bosporus. At first Bosporus and later Chersonesus were subdued by the Romans; they ruined the Tauri fortifications on the South Coast, and on the place of the largest fortified shelter the Romans built their maritime fortress Charax.

After the disintegration of the Roman Empire the South Coast fell under the influence of Byzantium. Her position here became particularly steadfast in the 6th century under Emperor Justinian I. In that period, as is testified by the Byzantine historian Procopius Caesariensis, fortresses were erected by the Emperor's order in Gorzubitai (present-day Gurzuf) as well as in Aluston (present-day Alushta).

During 8—9th centuries, as can be judged by the archaeological finds, the population of the South Coast enlarged a great deal. This was evidently due to the Greek immigration from Asia Minor, a fact which gives a clue to

the Greek origin of the name of Yalta ("gialos" — pronounced "yalós" — means shore, littoral in Greek). The town apparently arose at that time. At least in the 12th century A. D. it was already mentioned by the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi as Jalita.

The 10th century witnessed the rise of Rus, a new great power which was greatly interested in developing the trade way "from the Varangians to the Greeks". Kiev Rus grew strong in her contest with Byzantium. The successful march of Prince Vladimir to Chersonesus consolidated the position of Rus on the Black Sea Coast.

By the middle of the 13th century the Crimea underwent a devastating onslaught of the hordes of the Mongol-Tartar nomads, who settled in the steppe part of the peninsula. However the Tartars practically neglected the South Coats as not quite fit for their mode of life, and here first the Venetians and later on Genoese gained a foothold. In 1381 the Genoese concluded a treaty with the Tartars, according to which they took possession of all the coast from Cembalo (present-day Balaklava) to Caffa (present-day Feodosia). The independent Christian principality of Theodoro situated in the south-western part of the Crimea carried on a stubborn struggle against the Genoese for the domination of the South Coast. In the middle of the 15th century its large part belonged to Theodoro, although a number of maritime fortresses were retained by the Genoese.

In 1475 the Crimean Coast was blocaded by the Turkish fleet. Having landed near Caffa the Turks supported by the Tartars, after a short siege of the town, forced the Genoese to surrender. The fate of Caffa was soon shared by Cembalo, Soldaia (present-day Sudak) as well as other Genoese trading stations. Having taken possession of the South Coast the Turks captured and devastated the principality of Theodoro. The Crimean Khan Menghli-Girey acknowledged his vassalage from the Turkish Sultan. Thus the conquest of the Crimea was completed.

In 1774, after a victorious war of Russia against the Turkish Empire, the Küçük-Kaynarca Peace Treaty was signed, in accordance with which the Turks had to abandon the Crimea. The South Coast at that time was a neglected and economically backward region and Yalta was but a poor fishing village.

The revival of the South Coast began after 1783 as the Crimea was joined to the Russian Empire. Along the South Coast there sprang up estates of the Russian dignitaries, parks were laid out and palaces built. The Nikita Botanical Gardens founded in 1812 played an important part in enriching the cultivated flora of the South Coast.

The further development of the region was however handicapped by the absence of good roads. In 1824 the construction of a highway from Simferopol via Alushta to Yalta and further to Sevastopol began. Towards 1838 the highway was laid as far as Simeiz and in the same year the Senate's Decree was enacted converting Yalta, holding a central position on the South Coast, into a district town.

The first two decades the growth of the town progressed very slowly. In the sixties of the last century the Tsar's court made the South Coast of the Crimea its summer residence. This fact and also the uptrend of capitalism in Russia that took place after the Reform of 1861 greatly contributed to the growth of Yalta. A very important event to give an impulse to the development of the South Coast was the completion in 1873 of the construction of the railroad connecting the Crimea with Moscow and Petersburg. At the same time owing to Professor S. Botkin the curative properties of the local climate were made universally known and Yalta began to grow at a rapid pace, becoming a popular health-resort. Hotels, pensions, along with private villas, sprang up in the town and its environs. In 1872 it had a population of 2,800 people, in 1892 — 10,200, and in 1909 — 22,600. Before the Revolution it was a fashionable resort practically available for the aristocracy and capitalists who came here mostly for the sake of recreation. The cost of living in Yalta was

so high that the poor could not afford to stay here and enjoy the benefits of the salubrious climate.

The Great October Revolution opened up a new page in the history of the peoples of Russia. In January 1918, as a result of an armed uprising on the South Coast, the Soviet Power was established. However, as soon as in April of the same year, the Crimea was invaded by the troops of the Kaiser's Germany that had flagrantly infringed the terms of the Brest Peace Treaty. The Germans who left the Crimea in November were followed by the White Army of General Denikin and the British and French interventionists. The Red Army, after a successful advance in April 1919, regained the Crimea (except the peninsula of Kertch), however towards midsummer the White Army captured it again.

It was only in November 1920, after the rout of the white troops of Baron Wrangel who superseded General Denikin, that the liberation of the Crimea was made complete.

Just a month later, on the 21st of December, 1920, the historical Decree "On Utilizing the Crimea for Treating the Working People" was signed by Lenin. It read, in part: "The fine summer houses and mansions hitherto enjoyed by rich landlords and capitalists, the palaces of the former tsars and grand dukes should be used for sanatoria and health-resorts for workers and peasants".

In spite of many hardships that the country had to combat after the Civil War, the first season of the socialist health-resort opened as early as 1921. The management of all the resorts of the Crimea was headed by Lenin's brother D. Ulianov.

The nationalized hotels, villas, pensions in a very short time were converted into sanatoria. On the South Coast of the Crimea in 1921 were functioned 18 sanatoria with accommodation capacity for 2,400 people. At Livadia, the former tsar's residence, in 1925 the first sanatorium for peasants was opened.

Of course, the old palaces and mansions adapted for sanatoria did not meet all the requirements of up-to-date medical establishments. The first Five-Year Plans provided for the further development of the health-resort. The new sanatoria equipped with all necessary facilities were built. Towards 1941 the accommodation capacity of the resort increased to 20,000 beds.

The onslought of the Nazi Germany cut short the growth of Yalta. It was occupied by the Nazi from November 1941 to April 1944, however they never felt at home here being constantly harassed by the daring actions of the Crimean partisans that had their encampments in the mountain forests. On the 16th of April, 1944, the regular units of the Red Army in cooperation with the partisans liberated Yalta. The Nazi left a horrible trace on the South Coast of the Crimea. Scores of sanatoria dwelling houses as well as other structures lay in ruins.

As soon as Yalta was liberated, a strenuous work on repairing the damage caused by the war began. The ravaged sanatoria had to be brought back to life as soon as possible to be used as military hospitals. The enthusiastic inhabitants of the town joined their efforts to speed up the work on restoring the resort laid waste by the Nazi. The war was still going on however the rehabilitation of the town was in full swing.

At the beginning of 1945 an event of worldwide importance took place in Yalta. The Yalta Conference was held here. It brought together the Heads of the Three Allied Powers — Joseph

Stalin for the USSR, Franklin D. Roosevelt for the USA, and Winston Churchill for Great Britain.

The significance of the conference did not consist in coordinating the plans of the final defeat of the Nazi Germany and the imperialist Japan alone. Of no less importance was the settlement of the questions as to the future of Europe and adopting decision to establish the United Nations Organization. The conference lasted from 4 till 11 February and drew the attention of the whole world.

The end of the war was a new landmark in Yalta's history. Thanks to the selfless labour of its inhabitants and the care of the Soviet Government which attached greatest importance to the rapid restoration of the All-Union health-resort, Yalta was brought back to life in a very short time.

Obelisk commemorating Lenin's Decree "On Utilizing the Crimea for Treating the Working People".

The Memorial on the Mound of Glory.

A view of the town from Polikurovsky Hill.

Lenin Embankment.

The surf.

Cable-way to Darsan Hill.

Bus station.

Shopping centre.

Interior of the shopping centre.

At the bar.

A town beach.

Swimming pool.

Neptune's Festival.

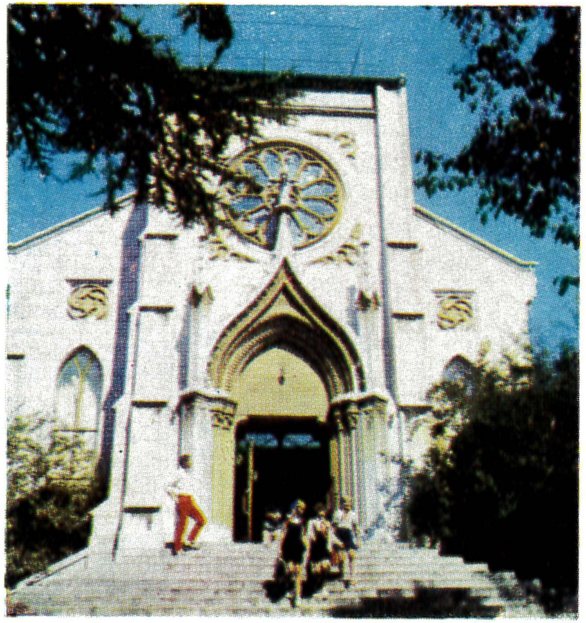
Foreign guests at Yalta Port.

Oreanda" Ho-
l.

A town park.

A. Chekhov's House-Museum.

Monument to M. Gorky.



Yalta Museum of Local Lore.

Livadia. The Palace and Park.

Grapes and fruites are the pride of the South Coast.

YALTA TODAY

Yalta is the administrative centre of the whole resort area known as Greater Yalta which is actually a string of resorts nestling cosily along the seashore and on the mountain slopes. In Greater Yalta there are 116 sanatoria, holiday-homes, pensions and other health-building establishments. This big complex is active in one of the most important spheres of life — care of public health.

Ever since the beginning of the Soviet era public health has been in the centre of the Soviet Government's attention. Lenin's Decree "On Utilizing the Crimea for Treating the Working People" may well serve as a proof of it. Within the years of the Soviet rule new health-resorts have appeared in many parts of the country, the old ones, that of Yalta, for instance, have been greatly enlarged. Under way is their further construction and improvement, and for this purpose more and more money is annually allocated by the Soviet Government.

All the year round the working people receive medical treatment at numerous sanatoria of the country. A very important fact which should be emphasized here is that a worker pays only thirty per cent of the cost of the services at a sanatorium, the rest being paid by the Trade Union. Should the case of a patient be of a serious origin (TB, for example) medical treatment and all the services are provided at specialized sanatoria free of charge and the term of stay at such sanatoria is prolonged till the full recuperation of the patient.

At the South Coast sanatoria the diseases of upper respiratory tracts of non-tubercular

character, functional and organic nervous disorders as well as cardiovascular diseases and metabolism are successfully treated. Some of the sanatoria are specializing in treatment of tuberculosis of lungs.

Practical aid of great value is rendered to the sanatoria by the Sechenov Research Institute for Medical Climatology and Climate-Therapy, a big scientific centre conducting extensive research work for more effective methods of treatment of tuberculosis of lungs, neurosis, hypertension. The principal method initiated by the Institute and widely practised at the sanatoria is climate-therapy which consists in utilizing to the full all the favourable conditions of the South Coast climate — ample sunshine with profuse ultra-violet radiation, the sea air charged with mineral salts. The sea-bathing which can be enjoyed in Yalta from May till the middle of October, sun- and air-baths, sleep on the seashore, combined with excursions to the places offering natural beauty, boat-rides along the coast, walks through the picturesque gardens — all produce an amazingly beneficial effect on a patient.

Nowadays Yalta is visited by a great number of people coming here from all the corners of the country for treatment or holiday-making. As a comparison it would be interesting to note that in 1921 at Yalta sanatoria about 10,000 people were treated while at present over one million and a half stay here annually.

Not figures alone are being changed, but great changes came also over the town. Having extended its boundaries far and away it becomes lovelier in appearance, its planning and public services being improved.

In the town there are large housing areas, its streets and squares are adorned by architectural ensembles that have sprung up quite recently. The town beaches have been enlarged and improved. A big swimming pool that has already been functioning for some years serves daily 2,000 people throughout the year.

Despite a large number of holiday-makers coming to Yalta at a high season all the town services operate normally. The water-supply of the town has been greatly improved owing to a system of reservoirs dug out on the northern slope of the mountain range linked with the town by a 7-kilometres long tunnel cut through the rocks. In 1972 an additional reservoir was put into operation in the upper reaches of the Katcha River. A few industrial enterprises meet the requirements of the holiday-makers and local population in food-stuffs and goods of resort use. Yalta has a large network of stores, restaurants, cafés, dining-rooms. In 1971 a big shopping centre was built in the town. Not long ago a circular trolley-bus route was put into operation. It is connected with the mountain trolley-bus line that runs from Yalta to Simferopol. The new bus station erected in 1967 on the north-eastern outskirts of the town where the trolley-bus line begins has every convenience for the passengers. A circuit road encircling Yalta on its mountain side relieves it from the gross transit traffic.

Numerous bus routes provide local service within Greater Yalta. Comfortable boats of the Yalta seaport plying between resorts along the coast as well as hydrofoils offer pleasure trips.

Yalta is a big cultural centre. In the town there are two scientific research institutes, a museum of local lore with its two branches those of archaeology and literature, A. Chekhov's memorial museum, house-museum of the Soviet writer N. Biriukov. At the town drama theatre named after A. Chekhov and summer theatre built in 1970 on the grounds of the Town Garden both Soviet and foreign art companies perform. Concerts given by the orchestra of the Crimean State Philharmonic Society are very

popular with the locals and holiday-makers. In 1970 the "Saturn" Cinema with a comfortable hall seating 1240 people was erected. In the town there are pavilions of M. Gorky Film Studio. At the Exhibition Hall of the Artists' Society of the USSR expositions of the Soviet artists are regularly arranged.

The passenger piers of the Yalta seaport are always full of bustling life. Comfortable motor-vessels of the domestic and international passenger lines served by the Black Sea Steamship Company make regular calls at Yalta. The new liners "Ivan Franko", "Taras Shevchenko", "Shota Rustaveli" with tourists on board often lie along the piers. The port of Yalta is also frequented by the foreign cruise-ships flying the flags of many countries of the world.

The tourism to Yalta, both internal and foreign, has developed within the last few years a great deal. The "Yalta" Tourist Centre serve annually over 15,000 tourists coming here from all the republics of the Soviet Union. The foreign tourists are accommodated at the Intourist hotels "Oreanda" and "Taurida", in summer time also at "Ukraina" Sanatorium. A large multistory hotel with accommodation for 2,740 people is now under construction. The service of the foreign tourists those who visit it on cruise-ships or stay at the hotels is provided by the local department of the All-Union Company for Foreign Travels in the USSR founded in 1955. Through the service bureaux of the hotels exciting excursions conducted by experienced guides are arranged.

The Yalta resort has extensive international ties. Its twin towns abroad are Nice in France, Pietarsaari (Jakobstad) in Finland, Margate in Great Britain, and Rijeka in Yugoslavia.

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One may best of all scan Yalta all over from the summit of Darsan Hill, a vantage point commanding the town. All its splendid panorama unfolds below.

A panorama of any town is its unwritten history. The more so it should be said of Yalta. It originated at the foot of the hill, called Polikurovsky, where a solitary belfry, a remnant of a cathedral that once stood on this site, is seen. From here the town expanded beyond the Derekoika River along the seashore and uphill. In the process of growing, Yalta acquired distinctive features of a southern town spreading over hills and valleys with the streets descending to the seashore.

Towards the beginning of this century the town got a complete urban aspect with a peculiar pattern of curved streets, green patches of parks and gardens composing a picturesque whole. The Embankment running along the seashore from the Derekoika to the Uchan-Su River, the new town centre represented by Lenin and Soviet Squares, can well be seen from Darsan Hill. Here begins the new housing area of the town built in the post-war period. It extends far along the Derekoika River towards Massandra to the north-east and Vasilievka to the north. The blocks of residential houses, fish-cannery, brewery, bus station give this area a marked up-to-date appearance. The old part of the town lying along the sea-coast to the north-east of the Yalta seaport, a region of picturesque houses scattered over the steep slopes, make a striking contrast to it. The panorama of the town is enlivened by the festive picture of the harbour where huge liners of dazzling white lie at berth alongside the piers.

Beside Darsan Hill is the Mound of Glory. Here in 1967, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution, the Memorial with the eternal flame was erected. Built of white limestone in an unusual shape of a

massive unclosed ring it makes an interesting sight. Darsan Hill is crowned by "Gorka" Restaurant of original architecture. From afar it looks like an antique temple. Both structures on account of their advantageous location give the townscape a vivid emphasis.

The most active and lively street of the town is Lenin Embankment. The General Post Office, State Bank, restaurants, cafés, stores, and bars are concentrated here. The murmur of the sea, the breath of the fresh breezes, the magnificient array of the decorative trees and shrubs make it a favourite place for strolls. Once here lay a road to Sevastopol. The Embankment acquired a composed architectural aspect only towards the end of the last century, still at that time it was a narrow and dusty thoroughfare. It was only after 1920 that the street was laid with asphalt and planted with trees. Now it is a wide promenade closed to traffic, attractive by its busy and at the same time leisurely atmosphere. In 1961 a breakwater protecting the Embankment was added making it twice as wide.

The Embankment begins from Lenin Square in the centre of which there dominates a monument to V. Lenin, the leader of the Revolution and the founder of the Soviet State. His bronze statue stands on a pedestal of red polished granite. The monument was unveiled on the 21st of January, 1954, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Lenin's death. It is the work of sculptor P. Yatsino, State Prize Laureate.

Commanding the Embankment, although somewhat withdrawn from it, is a large building standing on an elevated terrace. This is "Taurida" Hotel run by Intourist.

It was built in 1875 and was known originally as "Rossia" Hotel. Here a number of prominent personalities stayed at different times. The famous Russian poet N. Nekrasov lived in the hotel in 1876. Three years later M. Musorgsky, a great Russian composer, was a guest here. In 1899 A. Chekhov stayed in one of the rooms of the hotel for a fortnight. K. Stanislavsky, V. Nemirovitch-Danchenko also put up at the hotel in 1900 during the season of Moscow Art Theatre in Yalta. In Soviet times here was V. Mayakovsky, a prominent Soviet poet.

The courtyard of the hotel is the starting point of the cable-way that leads to Darsan Hill.

The next place of interest is the health-resort out-patient clinic. Before the Revolution it was a well furnished and profitable private villa ("Villa Hellen"). In 1918, during the struggle for the establishment of Soviet Power on the South Coast, the headquarters of the Red Guard detachments and the Revolutionary Committee were stationed here.

The building of "Kiev" Pension, formerly "Marino" Hotel, is remarkable as a place where A. Chekhov stayed for some time in 1899. M. Gorky lived here in 1928 during his tour of the Soviet Union.

The Embankment is bordered upon by the Town Garden. Beyond a picturesque group of plane-trees the large building of the Summer Theatre is seen. It has good acoustics and can seat 2,000 people.

Adjoining the Town Garden is Litkens Street which begins from the Embankment. Fringed by trees of various kind it looks attractive and quiet.

The one-storeyed house No 3 is remarkable for the fact that it belonged once to A. Spendiarov, a noted composer who lived here from 1901 to 1916. M. Gorky, F. Chaliapin,

and A. Glazunov, a famous composer, often visited him in this house. In front of it is the bust of the composer which was put in 1972. At present the building houses the Medical Worker's Club.

Nearby is another memorial place — the house No 8 in which Larisa Kosatch (Lesia Ukrainka), a prominent Ukrainian poetess, lived in 1897. Her monument was erected here in 1972. The poetess is portrayed sitting with arms crossed on her breast, deeply engrossed in thoughts. The bronze statue has no pedestal, it reposes on huge granite boulders dug into the ground.

The building of the Town A. P. Chekhov Drama Theatre is situated in the same street. Its walls once rang with the voices of F. Chaliapin and L. Sobinov. In April 1900 the plays of A. Chekhov "The Sea-Gull" and "Uncle Vanya" were staged here by the Moscow Art Theatre. The building of the Theatre did not survive from those times. In the autumn of the same year it burned down and a new one was built on its site. The tall portico with columns which forms its present-day façade was added after the last war.

The grounds from the corner of Litkens Street to the Uchan-Su River are occupied by the Public Garden named after M. Kalinin, a notable Soviet statesman.

Exotic plants of different varieties grow here side by side. There are also three silver birches thriving in an unusual environment. The pride of the garden is a stately venerable plane-tree with a huge and branchy crown. Nearby the Exhibition Hall of the Artists' Society of the USSR is fancifully located reposing on both banks of the Uchan-Su River. Its two blind walls overlooking Pushkin and Gogol Streets bear colourful tesselated panels.

Beyond the Uchan-Su stands Intourist's "Oreanda" Hotel. It is an attractive building facing the sea with a rounded front-side. Here the Embankment ends, merging into the Yuri Gagarin Seaside Park which extends along the seashore for somewhat more than half a mile.

The park offers a splendid view of the town and the harbour. An extraordinary variety of decorative plants, plenty of rosebushes, attractive alleys and glades make it an ideal spot for rest and recreation.

At the entrance to the park there is a monument to the great Russian writer M. Gorky unveiled in 1956. The author of the monument I. Gonchar, a Ukrainian sculptor, has portrayed the writer the way he looked at the time of his first visit to the Crimea in 1891 while travelling across Russia on foot. Set in the ground before the monument is a diorite block inscribed with the writer's words: "My pride and joy is the new Russian man, the builder of a new state. Comrade, know and believe that you are the most indispensable person on earth. By doing your little job you have begun to create a truly new world".

Not far from the monument to M. Gorky on a slightly elevated spot is the Obelisk erected in 1950 to commemorate Lenin's Decree "On Utilizing the Crimea for Treating the Working People". At the foot of the Obelisk is a stele in the shape of an opened book with the full text of the Decree engraved on its pages.

Adjoining the park are the grounds occupied by the pavilions of M. Gorky Film Studio where a number of films have been shot. Among them "Romeo and Juliet", "Othello", "The Gadfly", "The Scarlet Sails," "The Lady with the Lapdog" and others.

In the central part of the park one's attention is drawn by the monument to the great Russian writer A. Chekhov. Sitting on a stone with a note-book in his hand, he gazes at the blue expanse of the sea before him, yet he

seems to be aware of the life bustling around him. The monument created by sculptor G. Motovilov was unveiled in 1953.

The new region of the town naturally has no historical background but nevertheless it offers a great interest. There are two remarkable architectural ensembles. The first one is formed by the setting of Lenin Square in which an imposing building with high columns make itself noticeable. Here is the Town Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine. Its building makes actually one whole with that of the Executive Committee of the Town Soviet finished in 1973. The new "Saturn" Cinema as well as the large shopping centre facing Sovetskaya Square and the façade of the Town Soviet form the other of the two architectural ensembles.

From Sovetskaya Square begins Kievskaya Street running along the Derekoika River. On its other side is Moskovskaya Street, likewise a busy thoroughfare. A few years ago here was a wasteland which now is covered by regular blocks of dwelling-houses. Both streets terminate at the bus station where the trolley-bus line Yalta — Simferopol begins. The building of the bus station and the surrounding square were disigned by architect V. Chakhava and completed in 1967. This architectural complex is distinguished for an original solution which is well-fitting with the natural relief. Rather an interesting detail is that the Derekoika River babbles over the boulders of its bed under the square.

The part of the town beyond the bridge that spans the Derekoika at its mouth is the oldest one. A short street runs from the bridge to the sea passenger station. Years ago when Yalta was but a small district town here lay its main street. The old houses did not survive. Only the building of the old custom house next to the

passenger pier makes an exception. The street formerly called Bulvarnaya has been renamed after F. D. Roosevelt in commemoration of his stay at the South Coast of the Crimea during the Yalta Conference. In the very beginning of the street the Seamen's Club is situated. This is the centre of the cultural life of the workers of the Yalta seaport and also the seat of the local branches of the USSR — Great Britain and the USSR — France Societies.

Opposite the Seamen's Club to the left "Krym" Hotel is seen. F. D. Roosevelt Street is lined by a few noteworthy buildings, the two blocks of "Yuzhnaya" Hotel among them leads to the main office of the Yalta seaport and sea passenger station with a new custom house which is now being erected. Adjoining them are passenger piers. The principal one with a lighthouse in its extreme part and a high water-breaking parapet provides a well sheltered berth for the ships. It was built in 1889—1892 under the direction of the well-known Russian engineer and scientist A. Berthier-Delagarde. In 1967 a new passenger pier bordering on the Embankment was added. Next to it are the piers for small craft, from where one may go on a pleasure boat trip.

Not far from the sea passenger station, a little higher up in Sverdlov Street, is the building of the Fishermen's Club constructed in the post-war period. In the old-time house that stood on this site the noted Russian painter F. Vasiliev lived in 1873. Beyond the Fishermen's Club the old sea-side part of the town lies. Narrow lanes, steep stairways, breastwalls, cosy courtyards, houses with large glazed verandahs facing the sea impart it a unique exotic charm.

Further to the north-east the town borders upon the vast area of Massandra Park laid out

in the forties of the last century. Man-planted cypresses, cedars, sequoias wonderfully fit into the magic landscape composed by natural groves of oak, ash, hornbeam. On the southern margin of the park the newly built "Donbass" Health Centre for miners of the Ukraine is situated. It has 7 dormitories that can accommodate 1,200 people, a large dining-hall and kursaal. A cable-way links the Health Centre with the beach. A little lower overlooking the sea is the huge bulk of the multistory Intourist hotel which is now under construction.

The town waterfront and newly built area is no doubt the most attractive part of Yalta, but it is still only a part of it, and the survey of the town may truly be termed incomplete without mentioning its other very important places of interest providing a rich historical background. The main one of them enjoying a tremendous popularity is A. Chekhov House-Museum (112 Kirov Street).

For the first time Chekhov came to Yalta in 1888, then he was here again in 1893, but those were short visits. In 1898 being seriously ill Chekhov came to Yalta in order to settle down here. At former Autka (present-day Chekhovo) on the north-western outskirts of the town he bought a plot of land on which a house designed by the Yalta architect L. Shapovalov was built.

The writer lived in this house from 1899 to 1904. Here he wrote his plays "The Three Sisters", "The Cherry Orchard", some stories — "In the Ravine", "The Lady with the Lapdog", "The Bishop"...

All the furniture of the house is original. The dining-room witnessed many parties which were held here. V. Korolenko, M Gorky, K Stanislavsky, I. Levitan and other prominent cultural workers visited this house. Here Chaliapin sang and S. Rachmaninoff played his music. On the wall there are three palm branches tied with a red ribbon bearing the inscription: "To Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, a profound interpretor of the Russian reality". They were presented to Chekhov after the show of his play "The Sea-Gull" by the Moscow Art Theatre in Yalta.

Contiguous to the dining-room is a light glazed verandah overlooking the garden. The trees in the garden, for the most part, were planted in the writer's lifetime, many of them by himself.

Of special interest is the study. Here at the writing desk with a stethoscope, inkstand and other objects, now kept under glass, Chekhov's masterpiecies were being created. A large window of stained glass, dark wall-paper, a chimney-piece account for a peculiar cosiness of the room. On the walls there are numerous photographs of Chekhov's contemporaries — Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko, Konstantin Stanislavsky, Fyodor Chaliapin. Perhaps, the most interesting of the photographs is one with Chekhov and a group of the Moscow Art Theatre among whom the writer's wife O. Knipper-Chekhova can be seen. The study is adorned with two paintings by I. Levitan: "The Oak and the Birch" and "The Istra River".

The bedroom has an unassuming furniture — a wardrobe, an iron bed and a small table near it at which the writer worked. On the 1st of May, 1904, Chekhov went to Moscow, then to Badenweiler in Germany where on the 15th of July of the same year he died.

The writer's sister M. Chekhova preserved the house in its original state. The museum was opened here in Soviet times.

Another tourist attraction is Yalta Museum of Local Lore (21 Pushkin Street). The museum was initiated in 1902 by N. Dmitriev, a physician and great patriot of the South Coast. The engineer and archaeologist A. Berthier-Delagarde who was very much interested in the history of the Crimea contributed a great deal to the museum funds.

The initial division of the exposition deals with the natural history of the South Coast, its geological evolution, flora and fauna. There is also a division devoted to the history of the Yalta resort both before the Revolution and under the Soviet rule. On display are numerous materials reflecting the struggle of the working people headed by the Bolsheviks for the establishment of the Soviet

Power on the South Coast, documents relating to the process of the making of the socialist resort. A large section of the exposition tells of the events of the Great Patriotic War, the heroic struggle of the Crimean partisans against the Nazi invaders. The concluding exhibition gives a good idea of the mighty swing of the construction on the South Coast and throws light on the achievements of Yalta's inhabitants in fulfilling the Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The Archaeological Branch of the Museum relates of the history of the South Coast since its earliest period. The building housing it formerly was an Armenian Church (3 Zagorodnaya Street), rather an interesting piece of architecture reminiscent of St. Ripsimeh Church in Echmiadzin, the religious centre of Armenia. Designed by the Armenian architect Gabo Ter-Mikelov, it was built in 1914—1917. The dome of the church was decorated by the well-known Armenian artist Vardges Sureniants, whose grave is on the lower terrace in front of the church. The church magnificiently sited on a lofty hill looks rigid and stately.

Nearby at the very foot of Darsan Hill the Literary Branch of the Museum is situated (10 Pavlenko Street). It occupies the house which was the home of the Soviet writer K. Trenyov. From 1945 to 1951 P. Pavlenko, another Soviet writer, lived here. The exposition of the Literary Branch was opened in 1958. It gives a summary of the visits and life of outstanding men of letters in Yalta and on the South Coast.

These visits make a separate page of the town's history and give it a specific cultural background. Apart from Chekhov whose name is so much associated with Yalta other names should be mentioned here.

In 1820 the great Russian poet A. Pushkin during his exile visited the South Coast and spent here a few unforgettable weeks. A. Griboyedov, another famous Russian poet and playwright, travelled here in 1825. The same year the Crimea and its South Coast were visited by the great Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz who was deeply impressed by the beautiful scenery of these places inspiring him to write afterwards "The Crimean Sonnets". N. Nekrasov, an outstanding Russian poet, came to Yalta for treatment. Here he wrote the last chapters of his poem "For Whom is Life in Russia Good". Another Russian poet S. Nadson lived and died in Yalta in 1887.

Leo Tolstoy spent a few days in Simeiz in 1885. For the last time he came to the Crimea to reinstate his health in September 1901 and put up at Gaspra near Yalta. He stayed there till June 1902. During this time he worked at his narrative "Khadji Murat".

At the turn of the present century Yalta saw many an outstanding person. A. Kuprin, I. Bunin, world-famed writers, F. Chaliapin, S. Rachmaninoff, K. Stanislavsky and prominent painters I. Levitan, K. Korovin, V. Serov — such was the brilliant set of the names (far from being complete) invariably attracted by Yalta.

Besides the museums there is one more point of interest in Yalta of no less importance. This is "Magaratch" Scientific Research Institute for Wine-Making and Viticulture (25 Kirov Street). The building of the Institute was erected in 1898 and served originally as a boy's school. In 1905—1906 it was attended by P. Voikov, a Soviet diplomat, and from 1904 to 1906 by S. Marshak, a well-known Soviet poet who translated Shakespeare, Robert Burns and other English and Scotch poets.

The Institute has a unique ampelographic collection counting around 1,000 varieties of vines. Grapes have been grown in the Crimea from the times of the remote past. The joining of the Crimea to Russia opened up new prospects for a wide propagation of viticulture here. For this purpose in 1828 on the grounds belonging to the Nikita Imperial Gardens a

vine-growing nursery was founded. Such was the beginning of the history of the Institute which has greatly contributed to the development of viticulture and wine-making in the Crimea and outside it. The Institute carries out very important research work for solving the problems of raising grape yields and resisting pests and deseases that attack the vine as well as introducing new grape varieties.

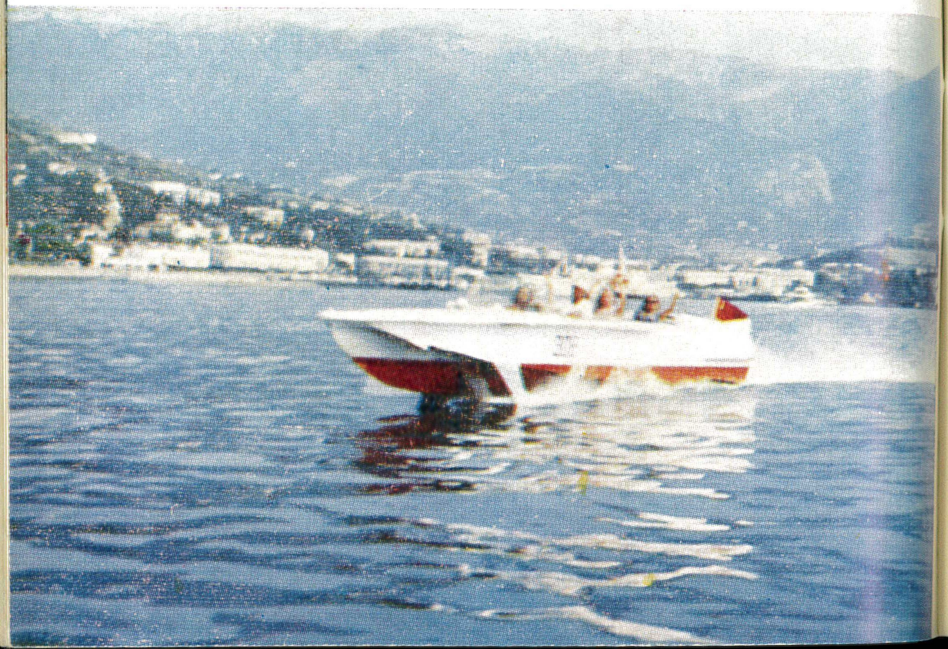
"Ukraina" Sanatorium.

Alupka Palace-Museum.

A spot in the Alupka Park.

Ai-Petri Peak.

A boat trip.



"Lesnoy" Restaurant.

Highway to Sevastopol.

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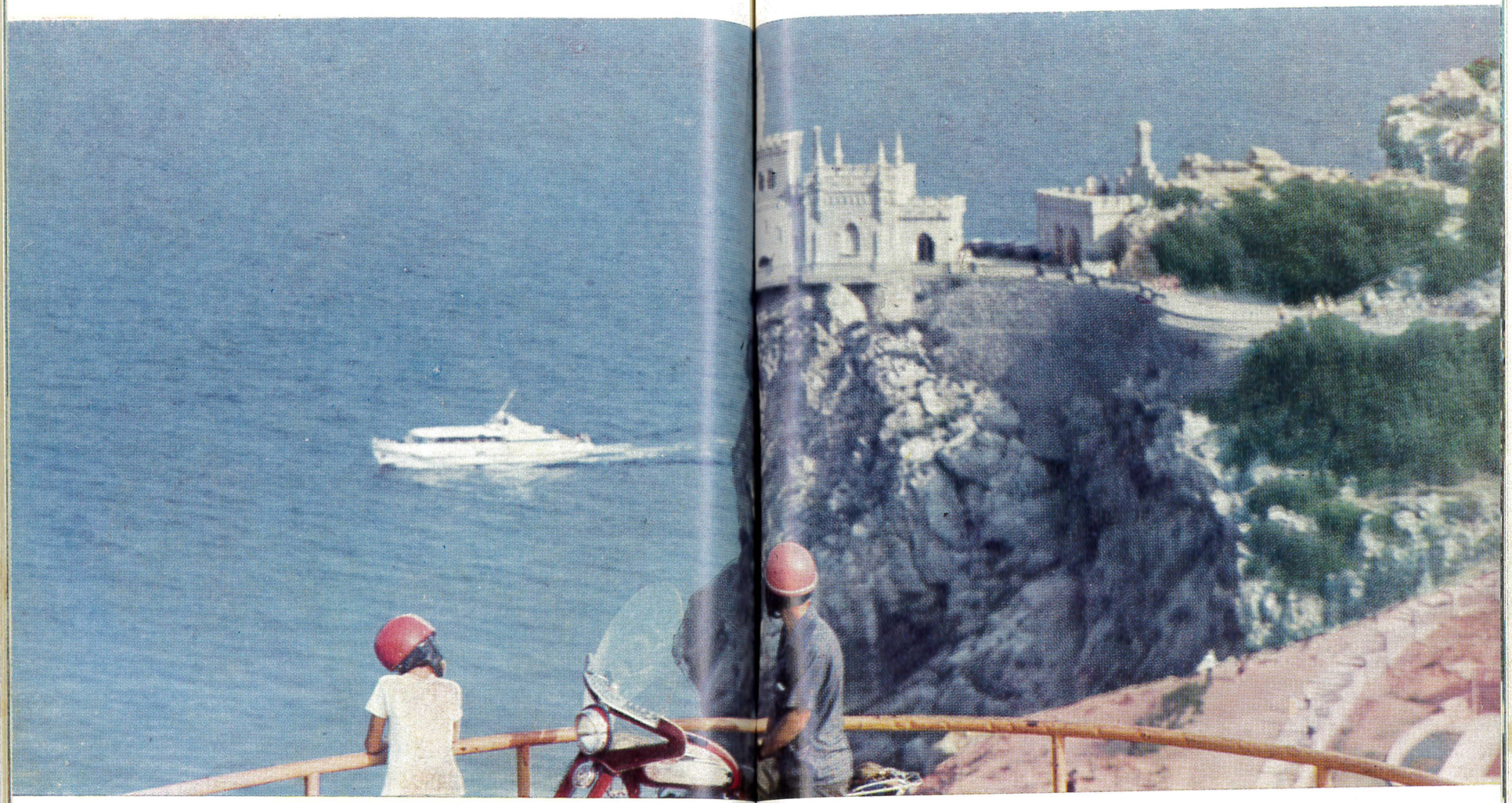
Uchan-Su Waterfall.

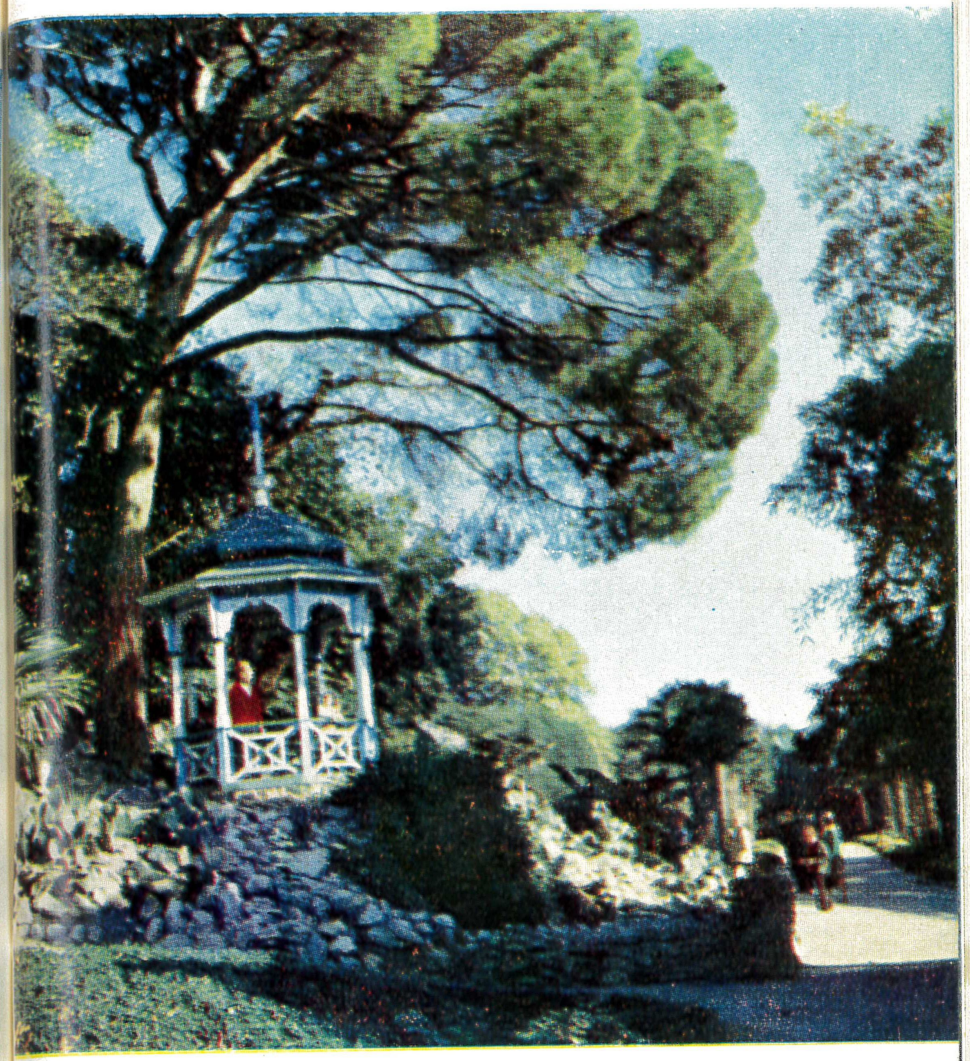


"Swallow's Nest".

"Massandra" Winery.

"Donbass" Pension.

Nikita Botanical Gardens. The Upper Park.



Arbour in the Lower Park.

A view of Gurzuf and Mount Ayu-Dag.

"Sputnik" International Youth Camp.

Artek. "Gorny" Camp.

TOURING THE SOUTH COAST

Greater Yalta offers a series of exciting excursions. Wherever you go places of interest follow one another.

One of the principal sights is Livadia lying 3 kilometres southwest of Yalta. Formerly an estate of Count Potocki it became in 1861 the property of the royal family. The old palaces built at that time by the court architect Ippolite Monighetti did not survive and only a chapel that was rebuilt afterwards remained. The new Big Livadia Palace designed by architect N. Krasnov was erected in 1910—1911 on the site of the old one.

It is located on the slopes of Mount Mogabi at a considerable height above sea-level. From here one can admire the picturesque surroundings and the splendid view of Yalta with its suburbs. The palace with its plain forms looks well-proportioned. Built of white limestone it makes a fitting composition with the verdure of the park. Its frontside faces the south-east while from the west it is adjoined by a small chapel and a belfry standing apart. From here a handmade gate leads into the inner "Italian" courtyard. Paved with marble flagstones and lined by the four arcaded galleries it has a typical appearance of a Venetian patio. The gate is also something to admire. It has been made of wrought iron by the Ural masters. The graceful pattern of its dark railings makes an amazing sight against the white background of the palace's walls.

The Big Hall of the palace with superb fireplaces, marble columns, magnificiently moulded ceiling is its main attraction. This hall witnessed the sittings of the Soviet, American and British delegations during the Conference of 1945. Throughout the Conference the palace was the residence of the American delegation

headed by F. D. Roosevelt who abode in the rooms adjacent to the Big Hall.

Livadia, nationalized in 1920, was made a sanatorium for peasants who stayed in the former chambers of the royal family. The historical importance of the fact was reflected by the Soviet poet V. Mayakovsky in his poem "The Miracle", inspired by his visit of Livadia in 1927.

During the Great Patriotic War the sanatorium suffered a great damage. The Big Palace survived only thanks to the precipitated flight of the Nazi as a result of the impetuous advance of the regular units of the Red Army and detachments of the Crimean partisans.

At present Livadia is a large sanatorium of cardiological type possesing up-to-date medical equipment. It has 9 blocks which can accommodate about 1,000 people simultaneously. Two elevators connect the sanatorium with an excellent beach. (Soon the Big Palace will be turned into a museum.)

Beyond Livadia lies Oreanda, an attractive and picturesque place. Not without reason the Russian poet N. Nekrasov staying at Yalta often came here and in a letter wrote about it: "This is the best what I have seen here as yet".

The road leads to Upper Oreanda at a height of 150—200 metres above sea-level, while below it runs a wide path formerly called "Tsar's Lane". Once it was used by the members of the royal family for walks and horse-rides. Mighty trees hem it on both sides forming a green corridor. Now and then the lane comes up to the very edge of a precipice, and a wide panorama of the coast with picturesque cliffs opens up.

Lower Oreanda boasting a wonderful park can well be seen from a rotunda at the side of the lane. Beyond Upper Oreanda the road forks into the Upper and Lower ones. The Lower Road girding Krestovaya (Cross) Rock descends

to the sea and continues along the coast towards Miskhor. Sanatoria follow one another. To the left "Zolotoy Pliazh" (Golden Beach) and Palmiro Togliatti (formerly Kurpaty) Sanatoria, both built before the war, are seen, while to the right is a light new edifice of "Gorny" (Mountain) Sanatorium. A cable-way leads from it to the seashore.

Not far one's attention is drawn by the exotic appearance of "Kichkineh" (Baby) Villa with its white indented walls and a minaret. Today the villa houses a tourist centre.

Next is "Parus" (Sail) Sanatorium. Its new dormitory block and glazed dining-hall have a very avdantageous location, commanding a splendid view of the shoreline and the mountains.

Nearby on a high cliff jutting into the sea is a tiny romantically looking castle with a round tower. Quite rightly it has been called "Lastochkino Gnezdo" (Swallow's Nest). The castle, designed by the Russian architect A. Sherwood, was built in 1912. In 1927 the cliff under it was damaged by an earthquake, and for safety reasons the castle had to be deserted. After the reconstruction and strengthening of its foundation that has recently been done it is used as a café.

The rocky promontory that the castle stands on is a part of Cape Ai-Todor which is an interesting historical place. In ancient times a settlement of the Tauri was on this site. It was here that the Romans had their outpost as they came to the Crimea to "protect" Chersonesus from the Tauri and Scythians and gained a foothold on the South Coast of the Crimea. The Tauri fortifications which they had taken possession of were torn down and in the seventies of the 1st century A. D. under Emperor Vespasian a fortress was erected here that got the name "Charax"

("fort" in Greek). The last garrison of Charax was Claudius' legion which left the place in the middle of the 3d century A. D. In the medieval period St. Theodore Monastery was situated on the cape — hence its name Ai-Todor.

Skirting the cape are the vast grounds of two sanatoria: "Zhemchuzhina" (the Pearl) and "Dniepr" (Dnieper). The picturesque park of "Dniepr" Sanatorium with attractive cottages scattered over it belonged in the pre-revolutionary period to the royal family. The estate became a sanatorium under the Soviet rule. At present it is being enlarged. A few new buildings have been added quite recently. An elevator enclosed in a glazed tower connects the sanatorium with a beach below.

The next sanatorium is "Ukraina". Its main block, a beautiful palatial building of dazzling white, makes an imposing sight. It was built after the design of architect Boris Efimovitch conformably to the character of the terrain. The main entrance to the sanatorium is on the north side at the level of the second floor while its richly ornamented frontage overlooks the sea. The comfortable rooms are on the sunny side and have spacious balconies. The construction of the main block of the sanatorium was completed in 1955. Five years later another building was added. An indoor swimming pool enables patients to enjoy the sea-bathing throughout the cold half of the year.

After "Ukraina" Sanatorium to the right of the road the large "Marat" Pension is situated. A little further to the left is "Sosnovaya Roshcha" (Pine-Grove) Sanatorium. Beyond it one's eye is caught by the glimmering white of "Krasnoye Znamia" (Red Banner) Holiday-Home built in Moorish style. The road continues to Alupka past another large pension — "Miskhor".

The wonderful cluster of sanatoria and holiday-homes seen from the road is only a part of Mishkor. It is better seen from the sea. A boat-ride to any place on the coast is a thrilling experience. One panorama of matchless beauty follows another as the boat glides along the coast cutting the waves, now deep-blue, now emerald-green. Imposing white edifices standing out against the rich verdure of the parks, cosy beaches framed by precipitous cliffs come into view and pass away. A really fantastic sight is the Swallow's Nest that seems to cling to the edge of the crag. The grand mountain range seen from the sea looks higher and more impressive.

The Embankment of Miskhor easily reached by boat is a place not to be overlooked. A note of exotic charm is added to it by a bronze group consisting of the Arzy Fountain and Mermaid's Statue on a stone off shore. The group personifying the characters of the old Crimean legend was made by A. Adamson, an Estonian sculptor, known for his Monument to the Scuttled Ships in Sevastopol.

At the time when this place was under Turkish rule, says the legend, here lived a pretty girl Arzy in whom a young man from a mountain village was enamoured. Right before the wedding-day she went to a well-spring to fill her jug with water. Here she was seized by Ali-Baba, the brigand, who had long noticed her beauty. He brought the girl to Istanbul and sold her into the Sultan's harem. While in harem Arzy gave birth to a boy but he did not bring her consolation. Unable to sustain homesickness any more she drowned herself and the boy in the Bosporus. After that she comes to Miskhor every year in the guise of a mermaid with a baby in her arms.

To the west from the Embankment along the shore stretches the Miskhor Park, one of the oldest on the South Coast. Here at "Niura"

Villa (at present non-existant) from 1901 to 1902 M. Gorky lived. At that time he worked at his play "The Lower Depths".

Higher up on the Upper Road Gaspra and Koreiz, two picturesque hamlets, are situated. In Gaspra at the former house of Countess Panina (today "Yasnya Poliana" Sanatorium) from 1901 to 1902 Leo Tolstoy lived. Here he was visited by A. Chekhov, M. Gorky, V. Korolenko, F. Chaliapin. The house built of grey stone with two indented corner-towers has a rigorous appearance stressed by the deep-green of the surrounding park. In Koreiz the former palace of Prince Yusupov built in 1904 is located. It is remarkable for being the residence of the Soviet delegation during the Yalta Conference.

Having passed the Miskhor resort area, the road descends to Alupka, and all of a sudden its whole panorama with a beautifully shaped shoreline, magnificient park and enormous crags of Ai-Petri Peak comes into view. The architectural forms of a palace amidst the park arrests one's attention.

At the beginning of the last century Alupka became the property of Count Vorontsov, an important dignitary and landowner who was the Governor-General of Novorossia. The palace was erected by the hands of his serfs. Its construction began in 1828 and was completed in 1848. The English architect Edward Bloor, the author of the initial design, intended to create a harmonious whole combining the occidental features of the architecture with oriental ones. However as the construction work was under way Bloor's design was slightly altered and more elements of Late English Gothic were brought into the architecture of the palace.

Although the palace consists of a number of sections differing very much in appearance it makes a composite assembly and fits organically with the surrounding landscape. The striking effect of its entity is accounted for by the appropriate design as well as by the material it is built of — hard greyish-green diabase. The palace looks extremely steadfast and secure, its towers and merlons seem to imitate the mighty forms of the jagged Ai-Petri Peak overshadowing Alupka.

The southern façade of the palace is adorned with a superb portal in the shape of a deep concave bearing an Arabic inscription: "There is no Omnipotent but Allah", reiterated six times. A wide stairway forming the so called "Terrace of Lions" leads from the portal into the Lower Park. Six marble statues of lions made with a great deal of verve line the stairway on both sides. Of particular interest is the sleeping lion at the bottom of the terrace, the work of the Italian sculptor Bonanni. The awakening lions as well as those keeping vigil of the entrance to the palace were made in his studio.

Certain interest is provided by the palace's interior.

The Blue Drawing-Room full of light with an exquisite pattern of moulded leaves and flowers covering its walls and ceiling was a kind of home-theatre for the Vorontsovs. Here in 1863 M. Shchepkin, a famous Russian actor, recited for the last time in his life.

In the Conservatory laid with marble flags there are a few exotic plants. The sculptural portraits of the Vorontsovs, Catherine II, and William Pitt Junior line the high windows facing south. The Conservatory leads from the Blue Drawing-Room to the spacious Dining-Hall with a high ceiling of carved oak and skilfully made wainscotting. It is bedecked with four large paintings of Italian landscapes which are the work of the well-known French painter Hubert Robert. Of interest are also the so called "Chintz Room," whose walls are draped over with chintz manufactured in the thirties of the last century, the "Chinese Room" and others.

After the October Revolution the palace became a museum. In 1945 during the Yalta Conference it was the residence of the British delegation headed by Sir Winston Churchill.

The palace-museum is now one of the principal tourists' attractions in Greater Yalta.

The park surrounding the palace occupies an area of some 40 hectares. It devides into the Upper and Lower Parks. The Lower Park is a model of the regular style in park-laying. Its accurate swards, straight lanes, carefully trimmed borders descend to the seashore. The Upper Park on the contrary was laid out in such a manner that it looks like a creation of Nature. A striking piece of park architecture, it blends organically with a wild landscape. The "Big Chaos", an enormous heap of huge diabase boulders, the remains of a monolith broken due to tectonic phenomena, gives the Upper Park a touch of the primordeal grandeur. Worthy of attention is a chain of three artificial ponds framed by high trees. Swans gliding the surface of one of them create the sensation of peace and quiet.

Not unlike Miskhor Alupka is a big resort. In the town and its environment there are 13 sanatoria. Among them such widely known establishment as the Bobrov Children Sanatorium for treatment of bone tuberculosis.

To the west of Alupka lies Simeiz, a cosy well-sheltered spot. It has a fascinating aspect for which a cove of intense colour with a picturesque setting of the rocks is responsible. Diva Rock, fancifully shaped and isolated, drops down to the sea forming the cove. Nearby is Panea Rock with a chaos of huge boulders at its foot. The remains of the Tauri fortification on it survived to this day.

Owing to its unique and well-sheltered location Simeiz boasts a warmer climate than that of Yalta. It has a superior share of sunshine,

the air here is unusually dry. It is quite natural that Simeiz is considered to be one of the best resorts for treatment of tuberculosis of lungs. Here a few sanatoria function, among them a large sanatorium built in 1961 and named after the 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Simeiz has also a very important scientific establishment — the Astrophysical Observatory founded in 1900 by a patron N. Maltsov. It has to its credit quite a few discoveries. At present the Observatory is affiliated with the Astrophysical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (the Institute is situated in the mountains near Bakhchisarai).

To the north-east of Yalta the new residential blocks of the town border on Massandra.

After the Crimea became a part of Russia the estate of Massandra shifted hands several times until it was bought by Count Vorontsov, who founded here a wine-making enterprise. Great changes came over Massandra after 1889 when Vorontsov's heirs sold it to the Crown. The area under vineyards was greatly extended. Prince L. Golitsyn, a talented wine-maker, was appointed manager of the Crown wine-making. His was the idea of constructing a large cellar to centralise wine-making and put it on a truly scientific basis. The cellar was laid out in 1894 and completed in 1897.

After the Great October Revolution all the enterprises of Massandra became the property of the State. The wine-making combine was founded here in 1936. The new large cellar completed in 1957 has a capacity of 10 million litres. By means of a system of galleries it is linked with the old cellar which is an interesting example of engineering. Its seven tunnels each 150 metres long radiate fanwise into the solid ground. In the old cellar there is a gallery of particular interest. It stores a unique collection of wines among which are such rare samples as Spanish Sherry of 1775 vintage.

At present the "Massandra" Combine is a large enterprise, the centre of the wine-making

industry of the Crimea. It incorporates a number of wineries situated on the South Coast and in the other parts of the Crimean Peninsula. The Massandra wines are renowned all over the world.

Beyond Massandra, to the right of the road, the blocks of "Donbass" Pension and the multistory building of Intourist hotel which is under construction are seen. On the eastern margin of the Massandra Park one of the wineries of the Combine is situated.

Below the road running through the village of Botanicheskoye (formerly Nikita) lie the Nikita Botanical Gardens, a big scientific research establishment. The Gardens were founded in 1812 by the Russian botanist Christian Steven as a nursery for rearing valuable species of plants and introducing them to the local flora. The vegetation of the South Coast of the Crimea as it is now represented owes its wealth and diversity to the Gardens. It is not an exaggeration. Within the long history of the establishment a large amount of work has been done here to create and propagate different varieties of plants.

The Gardens with their arboretum, experimental plots and adjoining forest reserve occupying an area of 280 hectares has a unique dendrological collection totaling 11,000 plants, natives of all the continents.

The park of the Gardens which has been aptly landscaped is their most glorious boast. A walk through it is both entertaining and instructive. It abounds in picturesque and inviting corners with many curiosities of the world flora. A pond in the form of a cascade shadowed by enormous plane-trees, alleys of hemp-palm, groves of cedars of Lebanon, colourful rosary lend the park an irresistible beauty.

The Nikita Botanical Gardens are affiliated with the All-Union Agricultural Academy of Sciences and consist of several departments each working in its specific field.

Gurzuf situated to the north-east of the Gardens has a very beautiful location making it particularly notable among all the other picturesque spots of the South Coast. The fantastic contours of Ayu-Dag, rocky deeply indented shore-line with Cape Suuk-Su, Adalary Peaks abreast of it in the middle of the bay impart Gurzuf an inimitable charm.

The history of the place dates from the ancient times. The well-sheltered cove of Gurzuf was apprently used by the seafarers of the antique world. In the 6th century A. D. under the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I a fortress was erected in Gurzuf. Later on it was rebuilt by the Genoese who gained a foothold here in the 14th century. The remains of this fortress torn down by the Turks in 1475 can be seen to this day on Genevez-Kaya Rock towering above the old part of Gurzuf. It should be mentioned that the ship carrying the Russian traveller Afanasi Nikitin from India took shelter in the cove of Gurzuf in 1472.

When in 1783 the Crimea was joined to Russia Gurzuf was a small village though bigger than that of Yalta. In 1808—1811 Duc de Richelieu who was then the Governor-General of Novorossia built a house here. Afterwards the house became the property of Count Vorontsov. Towards the end of summer 1820 A. Pushkin stayed in it. He spent here about three weeks, and after that he made a voyage to Georgievsky (St. George) Monastery on Cape Feolent and Bakhchisarai. The Crimea produced an idelible impression on the poet and left a profound imprint on his works.

By the end of the last century Gurzuf was a fashionable bourgeois resort. After the establishment of the Soviet Power in November 1920

its numerous hotels and pensions were nationalized.

Present-day Gurzuf is a very popular climatic resort with a large area of parks and spacious beaches. In its centre overlooking the sea is Korovin House of Creative Work of the Artists' Society of the USSR. The house was built by the Russian painter K. Korovin who lived in it from 1911 to 1917. The new block and dining-hall of the Korovin House of Creative Work are situated at the other end of the Gurzuf Embankment, next to "Sputnik" International Youth Camp opened in 1959. Young people of the Soviet Union and many foreign countries spend here their holidays in an atmosphere of friendly debates and entertainments. A score of cottages and two modern buildings provide accommodation for 400 people.

All the area from Gurzuf to the very foot of Ayu-Dag is occupied by Artek Young Pioneers' Camp named after Lenin. The camp was founded in 1925 on the initiative of the Deputy People's Commissar for Public Health of the Soviet Russia Z. Soloviev. At that time children lived in tents.

Today Artek is rightfully called Greater Artek. It consists actually of several camps providing accommodation in summer time for 4,000 children. They come here from all the republics of the Soviet Union and foreign countries as well. While in Artek children go swimming, take part in exciting excursions. They are offered various intriguing pursuits making their life here replete with joy and common interest. Scores of graceful dwelling structures variegated in appearance and full of light, sports grounds, swimming pools, a large stadium, the Young Pioneers' Palace are at children's disposal. Within the school-time schools are functioning in Artek.

Being on a visit to Yalta one should not miss the opportunity of seeing the Crimean forest in all its splendour. A motor-ride to "Lesnoy" (Forest) Restaurant will provide the pleasure. The road winds up the heavily forested slopes with stern fantastically weathered crags towering above them while down below spreads the infinite expanse of the sparkling sea. The Uchan-Su Waterfall, remarkable for its wild beauty, is located at a distance of some 200 metres from the road. At the very side of the road is "Uchan-Su" Restaurant framed in a picturesque setting of lofty pines. Four kilometres further is "Lesnoy" Restaurant built in the old Russian style. It is beautifully sited overlooking a small forest lake hemmed in by a thicket.

Within Greater Yalta there are many things to be seen. This short guide provides only a cursory survey of them. Its idea is to give a general notion of Yalta as a unique place and health-resort enjoying a country-wide popularity and having a great future.

The post-war period has witnessed an intensified growth of the resort. At present still greater prospects open up for its further development. Besides the 17-storeyed Intourist hotel in Massandra which when completed will be the largest building in the Crimea, a 16-storeyed sanatorium has gone up in Ai-Danil, a picturesque spot between Nikita Botanical Gardens and Gurzuf. The sanatorium accommodating 500 people will have an indoor swimming-pool, large dining-hall and other outbuildings. New high-rise blocks are being erected on the territory of "Marat" Pension and "Sosnovaya Roshcha" (Pine-Grove) Sanatorium.

In a valley near "Poliana Skazok" (Fairy-Tale Glade) on the north-western outskirts of Yalta the building of a camping site for 800 motor tourists has begun. Under construction is a cable-way leading to the summit of Mount Ai-Petri.

More attention will be paid to the protection and improvement of the South Coast beaches. Some of them have already been clad in iron-concrete and expanded considerably owing to the systems of sand-accumulating structures but there is still much work to be done.

Under the present Five-Year Plan the construction of a large sanatorium complex called "Zaria" (Dawn) will soon begin to the west of the village of Ponizovka, between Simeiz and Foros.

The district of Goluboy Zaliv (Blue Bay) lying west of Simeiz has been set aside for the creation of a large modern holiday centre with accommodation capacity for six to eight thousand people.

The town enters now a new stage of large-scale construction which will greatly change its architectural aspect. It certainly will become still lovelier and cater to more people coming here for holiday-making and treatment.

An incessant chain of seaside resorts amid parks forming one whole and covering all the area of the South Coast is what Greater Yalta will surely look like in the not too distant future.

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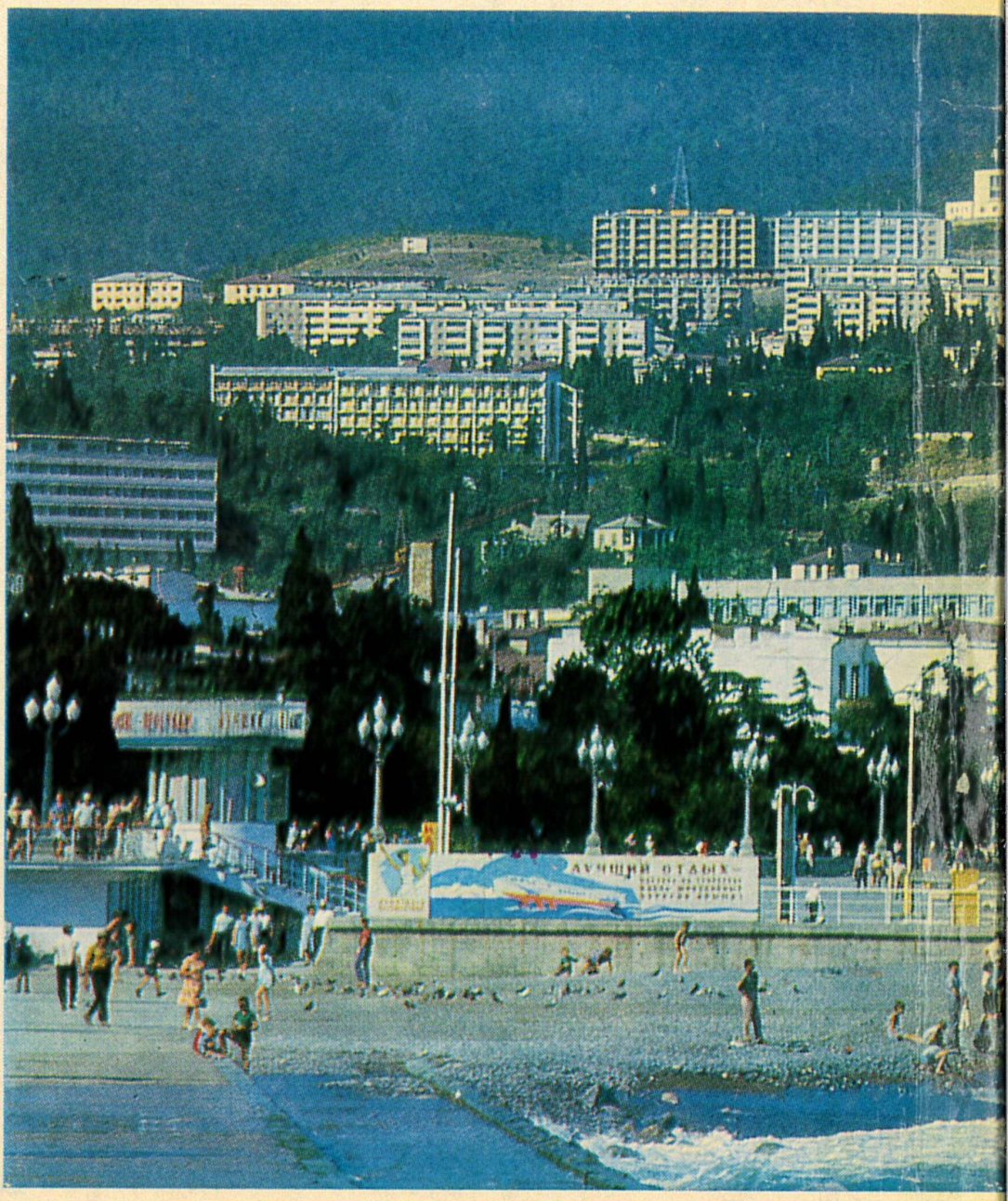
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